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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED



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8 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Satellite Reconnaissance Activities in  
Connection with the Berlin Crisis

REFERENCE : Memorandum for Special Assistant to the  
President for National Security Affairs,  
prepared for A/DCI signature, same subject.

1. I am passing you herewith the paper drafted by [ ] for dissemination to McGeorge Bundy.

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2. On rereading this since our meeting this morning, I feel I must firmly non-concur in this dissemination. Very briefly my objection to it is that, although this paper is in form a memorandum for information requiring no action or decision by the White House, it is the kind of paper which may well set in motion further inquiries and discussion looking toward a decision there. It seems to me desirable to avoid any such encouragement to the opening up of a new channel of decision-making simply because we have perfectly good channels of decision-making now. Specifically, since CORONA and ARGON are programs jointly managed by the Under Secretary of the Air Force acting in a special capacity and the Agency, the USIB should address a recommendation jointly to the DCI and either the Secretary of Defense or the Under Secretary of the Air Force for action. It seems to me we should encourage the use of normal channels of this sort as long as they work and discourage the unnecessary widening of the form in which these questions are debated.

3. If you feel that a memorandum nevertheless should be sent, I would at least like to have a paragraph added which would state explicitly that USIB recommendations are being forwarded to the Secretary of Defense and the DCI for appropriate consideration and that no action by the White House seems to be required at this time.

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#1-Addressee

#2-A/DDI-Attn: [ ]

#3-AC/DPD

[ ]  
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

COR-1323

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